THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air Canada have resumed operations to India from 6-11-93 by operating 4 services per week between Vancouver and Delhi via London. Air Canada have operating rights under Bilateral Air Services Agreement which they have now decided to avail of in accordance with their commercial judgement.

(c) Earlier, Air Canada were operating on the route Toronto-Bombay-Singapore and vice versa. They are now operating on route Vancouver-Delhi-Vancouver and vice versa.

Taking over of Surat Airport by NAA

1918. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the infrastructure facilities have been created by the State Government for the airport at Surat with a view to hand it over to the National Airports Auhority; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Surat airport belongs to the Government of Gujarat and facilities for operation of only Dornier type of aircraft have been provided by the State Government. A request was received from the State Government for taking over of Surat airport by the National Airports Authority (NAA). Due financial constraints it is not feasible for NAA to take over Surat airport.

Panel for appointments of Traffic Assistants in IA

1919. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1,542 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th May, 1993 and state:

(a) the number of persons who have been offered jobs for the post of Traffic Assistants in Rajasthan, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh so far and by what time all these candidates will be offered jobs since they have already waited for three years;

(b) whether Government have extended the validity of the panel; if not, what will be the future of these candidates and what is amount of expenditure of Government on the test and interviews that Government had to arrange for the above panel;

(c) if so, upto what dates the life of the Panel has been extended;

(d) whether Government will announce the merit list of candidates so that candidates could plan their future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The panel for the posts of Traffic Assistant (Statewise) was formed by Indian Airlines, Northern Region on 12-8-91. Due to ban on recruitment, none of the candidates empanelled for posts in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh could be offered appointment.

(b) and (c) Panels have been extended from time to time by the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines and are now valid till 31-3-1994. An expenditure of approximately Rs. 44,000/- was incurred by Indian Airlines for conducting Statewise test and interview for the post of Traffic Assistant in Northern Region.

(d) and (e) The empanelled candidates have been informed in writing.

Proposal for re-naming of Ahmedabad International Airport

1920. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of